

### Tanna volcano

**VANUATU'S** Tanna island, home to one of the world's most active volcanos, is set to have its own dedicated port of call in the near future.

Vanuatu Tourism Office gm Adela Issachar Aru revealed the plan to **Cruise Weekly**, saying hydrographic surveys have identified two key sites for ships to drop anchor and offer tenders to the island.

"Part of the target is getting cruise passengers to enjoy the volcano as well as experience some of the culture and communities in Tanna."

She said the Vanuatu Govt was in talks with Carnival to offer the Volcano port of call.

### Cruise Weekly today

**Cruise Weekly** today features four pages of all the latest cruise industry news.

## Vanuatu to seek Carnival Aus rethink

### EXCLUSIVE

**THE** Vanuatu Government hopes to hold talks with Carnival Australia in Sydney this month in a bid to encourage the cruise company to consider rethinking its ship deployment to the island nation in the years ahead.

Cruise ship passengers have been driving tourism to Vanuatu over the past few years following Cyclone Pam in Mar 2015.

Vanuatu's air arrivals in Apr sat at 8,935 visitors, while the cruise ship visitor number was 20,407.

The figure slid to 15,360 in May, but cruisers still accounted for 68% of all visitors to the country.

Vanuatu is investing heavily in its cruise infrastructure, with a new facility opening at Santo late last month and a new terminal for cruise ships currently under development in Port Vila which will enable two ships to dock in the capital's harbour at one time.



A new Vila seafont precinct was unveiled last week, partially aimed at enticing cruise pax off ships docked in the harbour.

However, growth over the past five years is expected to slow in 2018/19, Vanuatu Tourism Office gm Adela Issachar Aru told **Cruise Weekly** at the 2017 Tok Tok travel trade show in Vila last week.

"VTO has been advised there may be a drop in numbers to Port Vila, Luganville & Mystery Island," Issachar Aru said.

"Part of this drop is related to itinerary planning 18-20 months ahead of time, when the decision was taken on their part, we were still undergoing construction for the Santo wharf, as well as trying to fix some traffic management situations we had in Port Vila."

"We are working with the govt to re-approach Carnival and say 'look, now we have a fantastic seafont area, new exciting tours and activities happening in Port Vila and Efate. Take another look'.

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# CRUISE



Thursday 7th September 2017

## CRUISE

WEEKLY

On location in  
Mooloolaba

Today's issue of CW is coming to you courtesy of the Australian Cruise Association conference on the Sunshine Coast.

**THIS** is the 21st annual ACA conference and this year is being held in the stunning waterfront location of the Mantra Mooloolaba Beach.

Themed 'Together Towards Tomorrow', over three days delegates will hear from keynote speakers from Norwegian Cruise Line, Viking Cruises and Ponant.

Panel sessions, workshops and networking and local sightseeing are planned as delegates blend education with a splash of leisure.

## Hurricane update

**CATEGORY** five Hurricane Irma is causing mayhem across the Caribbean as it tracks towards Florida.

Royal Caribbean has cancelled sailings on board *Empress of the Seas* to Cuba, *Enchantment of the Seas* and *Majesty of the Seas* operating Bahamas itineraries.

Several RCI cruises have altered as a result, with the line promising cruise credits.

Carnival Cruise Line has canned two cruises on *Carnival Magic* and *Carnival Liberty*, while MSC Cruises has diverted *MSC Divina* to Miami and Cozumel and will cancel a subsequent departure.

Irma is producing winds up to 300kph, which has caused damage across the Caribbean.

DFAT is advising tourists in Cuba carry their passports with them at all times.

## Coast welcomes ACA



**THE** Australian Cruise Association (ACA) opened its 21st conference and annual general meeting on the Sunshine Coast last night, reinforcing the region's role as one of the fastest growing port destinations in the country.

The program was officially opened by Leanne Coddington, ceo of Tourism and Events Queensland (TEQ), who spoke about the record number of cruise ships visiting Queensland in 2016-2107 that spent 407 ship days in port, representing an increase of 25% on the year prior.

More than 110 delegates are participating in the conference held in Mooloolaba and themed "Together Towards Tomorrow," to explore infrastructure development, collaboration with cruise lines, and understanding

changing customer needs.

Highlighting the importance of cruise growth to the local region, Visit Sunshine Coast ceo Simon Latchford, **pictured**, said cruises to the coast had grown by 28.6% over the past year, with an average spend of \$269 per passenger injected into the local tourism economy.

Two international speakers are on the program for the conference this week.

Bruce Krumrine, vp of shore excursions for Princess Cruises, Holland America Line, Seabourn and P&O based in the US, and Matt Grimes from Viking Cruises, responsible for itinerary development and deployment based in Europe, will give presentations on the importance of destination development.

Celebrity **X** Cruises

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## Luxury's "reward"

**STEVE** Odell, svp and md  
APAC for Norwegian Cruise  
Line Holdings has urged agents  
"to put your toes into the  
luxury market".

Speaking to *Cruise Weekly*,  
Odell highlighted the "big  
opportunity" the luxury  
market presents to earn a  
higher ticket value, more  
commission and to keep a  
more loyal client.

He noted loyalty amongst  
the contemporary market was  
"probably around 20-25%",  
while that of premium and  
luxury market consumers sat  
"around 50-60%".

"You don't need many  
customers paying \$10,000 per  
person and they're actually  
very loyal," he said.

Odell conceded that agents  
all needed the "cash cow" of  
contemporary business, but  
explained that a mixture of  
both markets was ideal.

## Aust losing expeditions

**AUSTRALIA** is losing  
out on attracting foreign  
expedition cruise vessels,  
resulting in lost tourism  
opportunities because  
of inconsistencies  
and restrictions in  
Government policy.

Speaking at the  
Australian Cruise  
Association conference,  
Ponant chairman Sarina  
Bratton said between  
2018 and 2022 there  
were 22 new expedition  
cruise ship builds lined  
up, but the majority  
were yet to commit to  
Australian deployments.

"We have issues facing  
expedition cruises. There  
are many companies  
that would love to call  
Australia home but they  
can't," said Bratton, **pictured**.

Presently the Coastal Trading  
Act skews heavily in favour of  
domestic ships and Australian  
crews in many areas of operation,  
representing increased costs and  
operational challenges to foreign  
flagged vessels, particularly under  
5,000 tonnes.

"In New Zealand you can  
operate for 28 days before your  
ship needs to go international,"



Bratton said.

"We've got charters lined up  
from New Zealand but the current  
Australian operating environment  
is way too challenging."

Bratton has again called  
for change in policy, urging  
stakeholders within the cruise  
industry to "lobby Government to  
change the rules for international  
vessels of any size to be able to  
operate without restrictions".



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# CRUISE

WEEKLY

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## Le Boat to Canada

LE BOAT has launched its 2018 brochure, covering experiences both in Europe and North America.

In 2018 the company will make its debut in Canada, its first foray out of Europe.



## ACA Conference kicks off

OUR 21st annual conference kicked off last night on the Sunshine Coast with festivities at host hotel, Mantra Mooloolaba Beach.

Leanne Coddington, ceo of Tourism & Events Qld, set the tone for the next two days as she talked about the exciting growth of the cruise industry in Qld. Sunshine Coast Deputy Mayor, Tim Dwyer, echoed this enthusiasm as he talked about the region as one of the emerging destinations for cruising on the eastern seaboard.

Their inspirational words set the tone for the next two days of conference which is aptly themed "Together Towards Tomorrow" as our speakers explore where the industry is positioned now and what we are doing to plan for the future.

Visit Sunshine Coast sponsored our welcome event which was catered by Peter Wolfe from Cedar Creek Farm Bush Foods. Peter treated guests to a range of wonderful canapes using local native ingredients and talked about his passion for the local area which he now calls home.

The Gala Dinner will continue to showcase the wonderful regional offerings when we all enjoy dinner at the Spirit House, sponsored by Abercrombie & Kent.

The regional theme will continue at our closing breakfast on Friday morning when we welcome Anna Marsden, md of the Great Barrier Reef Research Foundation who will help us understand how we as an industry can help to support the Reef's long-term future.



**HUNDREDS** of mermaids, mermen and merbabies descended on Bexhill in the United Kingdom to break the world record for the largest gathering of mermaids.

Organisers said they were 'ecstatic' and 'over the moon' as a total of 325 turned up for the feat on the weekend.

The previous record for the largest gathering of mermaids was 300, set in Jan in Greensboro Nth Carolina.

The gathering was one of the highlights of this year's Bexhill Festival of the Sea.

As well as the mermaid gathering, Bexhill Festival of the Sea featured more than 50 stalls highlighting Sussex produce and seafood cuisine from around the world.

There were also cooking demonstrations, free angling coaching, children's fun fair, dancing and live music on the Metropole Lawns.

## Carnival LNG go-ahead



**CARNIVAL** Corporation held a keel-laying ceremony this week to celebrate the start of construction for the first of seven next-generation cruise ships to be powered by liquefied natural gas.

The *AIDAnova* is due to join the AIDA fleet in late 2018 and will be fully powered by low-carbon gas.

**Pictured** are Felix Eichhorn, president of AIDA Cruises; Arnold Donald, president and ceo of Carnival Corporation; Bernard Meyer, ceo of Meyer Yards; Michael Thamm, ceo of Costa Group; David Dingle, chairman Carnival UK and Neil Palomba, president of Costa Cruises.

## Cunard program

**CUNARD** has unveiled its Apr-to-Dec 2019 program, packing in the fleet's first northern lights voyage and marking its return to Alaska for the first time in over 20 years.

*Queen Elizabeth* will operate a series of northern Europe voyages in 2019, including the northern lights cruise in Oct.

*Queen Mary 2* will continue trans-Atlantic crossings, with the addition of a Canada/New England sailing, and *Queen Victoria* will be based in northern & southern Europe.

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### EDITORIAL

Editor in Chief and Publisher – Bruce Piper

Managing Editor – Jon Murrie

Editor – Jasmine O'Donoghue

Contributors – Guy Dundas, Matt Bell

[info@cruiseweekly.com.au](mailto:info@cruiseweekly.com.au)

### ADVERTISING AND MARKETING

Sean Harrigan and Melanie Tchakmadjian

[advertising@cruiseweekly.com.au](mailto:advertising@cruiseweekly.com.au)

### BUSINESS MANAGER

Jenny Piper

[accounts@cruiseweekly.com.au](mailto:accounts@cruiseweekly.com.au)

Suite 1, Level 2, 64 Talavera Rd  
Macquarie Park NSW 2113 Australia  
PO Box 1010 Epping NSW 1710 Australia  
Tel: 1300 799 220 (+61 2 8007 6760)

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